

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

VOTE

IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER,

To Fund Bicycle Master Plan Study.

ORDERED,

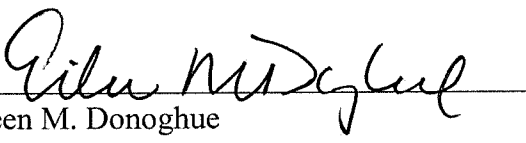
By the City Council of the City of Lowell, as follows:

That the amount of **Eighty Thousand and 00/100 (\$80,000.00) Dollars** be transferred:

FROM: Fund# 1707 as described in "Attachment A"

TO: Account # 01824170 588401 as described in "Attachment A":

ORDER RECOMMENDED AND INTRODUCED BY:


Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Transfer Form - Attachment "A"

Department:	DPD			
TRANSFER TO:				
Account #			Description	Amount
Org.	Object	Project		
01824170	588401		Traffic Improvements	\$ 80,000.00
			TOTAL	\$ 80,000.00
TRANSFER FROM:				
Account #			Description	Amount
Org.	Object	Project		
Fund # 1707			Ride Share Assessment	\$ 80,000.00
			TOTAL	\$ 80,000.00

Reason for Transfer:

To fund Bicycle Master Plan Study

Department Signature

Chief Financial Officer


8/6/19



Conor Baldwin
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager

FROM: Conor Baldwin, Chief Financial Officer 

CC: Natasha Vance, Transportation Engineer

DATE: August 6, 2019

SUBJECT: Vote to transfer funds from Uber/Lyft Assessment account

Natasha Vance, the city's Transportation Engineer in DPD, has forwarded a request to appropriate monies from the city's transportation infrastructure fund. The receipts deposited in the fund are received from the state as the result of a fee instituted on ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft and must be used to address the impact of transportation network services on municipal roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure or any other public purpose substantially related to the operation of transportation network services in the city or town including, but not limited to, the complete streets program established in [G.L. c. 90I, § 1] and other programs that support alternative modes of transportation. Pursuant to the regulations of the Department of Revenue, the account is to be treated as a special revenue fund and requires an appropriation of the legislative body prior to expenditure. Since inception, the City of Lowell has collected \$116,761.40 from the state for this program.

According to the Transportation Engineer, the City plans to expend \$80,000 of the Uber/Lyft funds for Bicycle Master Planning. Currently multi-modal designs and routes are planned on a project-by-project basis leaving the city with an incomplete, uninformed network of bicycle routes and sidewalk accommodations. Bicycle lanes in the City are often poorly marked or signed. The motoring public is not informed regarding the rights of cyclists and many potential cyclists are deterred by the perceived lack of safety for cyclists in the City. The City advertised a request for proposals ("RFP") for a Multi-modal/Complete Streets and Bicycle Master Plan and has hired a design consultant to develop a Bicycle Master Plan ("BMP").

With the adoption of the "Complete Streets" policy, the City of Lowell recognized that planning and designing streets that are supportive of safe walking and bicycling routes for commutes, errands, recreation, and other travel is an important part of Lowell's citywide transportation system. For some members of the community, walking and bicycling may be their only transportation options. In order to comprehensively evaluate appropriate routes, projects, and other policies necessary to create a first-class city for bicycling and walking, reduce overall carbon emissions, and provide for a well-designed, equitable, integrated, safe, and efficient multi-modal transportation system, a bicycle master plan is required.



Conor Baldwin
Chief Financial Officer

A bicycle master plan will include a number of different items, such as performing a network gap analysis to determine where infrastructure gaps exist, a public outreach process to determine how the public currently views biking in Lowell and where they would like to see improvements and an analysis of the existing City right-of-way to evaluate location for bicycle facilities.

Below, I have included a summary of the impacted budgetary accounts. Please do not hesitate to let me know if there are any questions.

Account Name	Original Budget/ Cash Balance	Previous Transfers	Revised Budget	YTD Expenditures (Actual)	Encumbrances	Balance Before Transfer	Transfer	Balance After Transfer
Fund #1707 - RIDESHAR	\$ 116,761	\$ -	\$ 116,761	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 116,761	\$ (80,000)	\$ 36,761
DPD - Transportation Improve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

August 6, 2019

Mayor William Samaras
And
Members of the Lowell City Council

Dear Mayor Samaras and Members of the Lowell City Council,

I am hereby requesting that the City Council vote to appropriate \$80,000 from the special revenue for assessments for ridesharing companies into the DPD budget to fund a bicycle master plan study, pursuant to a request by the Transportation Engineer, Natasha Vance.

Pursuant to statute, the Transportation Network Company (TNC) Division of the Department of Public Utilities must collect a \$0.20 per-ride assessment on all TNC rides originating in the Commonwealth. In 2017, there were approximately 64.8 million rideshare trips started in Massachusetts which resulted in a \$12.8 million assessment from TNCs. Half of this amount was distributed to MassDevelopment and the Commonwealth's Transportation Fund while the other half was distributed to Massachusetts cities and towns based on the amount of rides started in each community. These funds proposed for appropriation are from monies distributed to Lowell.

Enclosed with this letter is a memorandum from the Chief Financial Officer which outlines the details of the transfer. Please do not hesitate to let me know if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Eileen Donoghue
City Manager

CC: Conor Baldwin, Chief Financial Officer
Natasha Vance, Transportation Engineer
Karen O'Beirne, Acting City Auditor